

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
EPA New England  
One Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114-2023**

March 12, 2003

To: B. Olson, EPA  
J. Kilborn, EPA  
H. Inglis, EPA  
R. Howell, EPA  
D. Moore, USACE  
K.C. Mitkevicius, USACE  
S. Steenstrup, MA DEP (2 copies)  
C. Fredette, CT DEP  
A. Silber, GE  
J.R. Bieke, Esquire, Shea & Gardner  
S. Messur, BBL  
T. O'Brien, MA EOE  
D. Young, MA EOE  
R. Cataldo, ENSR  
R. Nasman, The Berkshire Gas Company  
Mayor Hathaway, City of Pittsfield  
Commissioner of Public Works and Utilities, City of Pittsfield  
Public Information Repositories

RE: February 2003 Monthly Report  
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action  
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site

Enclosed please find the February 2003 Monthly Report for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. In accordance with the Consent Decree for the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is performing the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action, with General Electric funding a portion of the project through a cost sharing formula.

The EPA has entered into an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist in the design and construction of the Removal Action. The USACE subsequently awarded a design-construct contract to Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston). Weston, with several subcontractors, will be performing the design and construction activities for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (413) 236-0969.

Sincerely,

Dean Tagliaferro  
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action Project Manager

## 1. Overview

During February 2003, EPA, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE's contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc. and Weston's subcontractors continued remediation activities on the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. The primary work included soil and sediment excavation activities in Cells 7, 7A, 5A, 8 and the backfilling of the riverbanks and riverbed in Cells 6A, 7, 7A, and 5A. Installation of the Silver Lake outfall extension structure was initiated. In addition, the transfer of NAPL-impacted materials to an off-site disposal facility was completed, and the transfer of TSCA and non-TSCA materials from the stockpile management areas and/or excavation cells to the GE On Plant Consolidation Areas (OPCAs) was conducted.

## 2. Chronological description of tasks performed

Refer to Figure 1 for an orientation of the sheetpile cells and their respective locations.

By the end of January 2003, backfill activities (with the exception of topsoil) were completed in Cell 6. Backfill activities were also underway in Cell 6A. During the first week of February backfilling activities continued. Placement of topsoil, seed and biodegradable erosion control blankets was completed on the Cell 6 riverbank above elevation 975. In the Cell 6A riverbed installation of the 9-inch rip rap layer was completed, two habitat enhancement structures (2-foot boulders) were placed and a wing deflector was built per project specifications. Common fill, Filter layer A, Filter layer B and 18-inch rip rap were installed on the riverbank below elevation 975, and common fill, topsoil, and seed were placed on the riverbank above elevation 975.

Also, by the end of January 2003, Cell 7 was divided into two sub-cells 7 and 7A, and Cell 7 was isolated, dewatered and preparations for excavation were initiated. During the first week in February, the effort of installing sumps and swales to help dewatering was completed in Cell 7. Prior to excavation activities, the surveyors established TSCA and non-TSCA excavation limits and depths of excavation. TSCA and non-TSCA materials in Cell 7 were excavated. The TSCA material was transported to the Building 63 stockpile management area and non-TSCA material was transported to the Building 65 and/or Building 68 stockpile management areas.

Dewatering of Cell 7A was started by pumping water greater than 6 inches in depth directly back to the river. Once the water depth reached 6 inches it was pumped to the water treatment system. The Cell 7A TSCA and non-TSCA excavation depths and limits were established. Excavation and transport of TSCA and non-TSCA materials was started in Cell 7A.

During the second week of February, placement of biodegradable erosion control blankets was completed on the Cell 6A riverbank. The upstream cutoff wall of Cell 6A was removed following final surveys and approval of the final grades, allowing the cell to flood. The removal of Cell 6A centerline sheetpile wall was started.

Excavation and transport of TSCA and non-TSCA materials in Cell 7A was completed. Following excavation, excavation verification survey was performed.

Once both Cell 7 and 7A verification surveys were completed, approved backfill grades were staked out by the surveyors. The sheetpile cutoff wall separating Cell 7 and 7A was removed and backfill activities up to elevation 975 in both cells were completed. In the riverbed, 2-inch stone was placed in the dewatering swales and trenches, followed by common fill, Filter layer A, and 9-inch rip rap. The riverbank was backfilled with common fill, Filter layer A, Filter layer B, and 18-inch rip rap. Following completion of backfilling to an elevation of 975 feet, water was pumped over the sheetpile wall back to the river and backfilling of the riverbank above 975 with common fill was started.

Installation of a pump system for the Silver Lake outfall bypass as part of the Cell 5A remediation efforts was started.

During the third week of February, backfilling of Cells 7 and 7A continued. Placement of topsoil, seed and erosion control blankets was completed on the Cells 7 and 7A riverbank above elevation 975. Upon approval of the final grades, the Cell 7 upstream cutoff wall was removed and the Cell 7A downstream wall was driven to the mudline, allowing the cells to flood.

In addition, the Silver Lake outfall bypass pump system was completed and activated. Next, the isolation of Cell 5A was completed by pulling the upstream sheetpile wall and by installing a downstream cutoff wall. Dewatering of Cell 5A started by pumping the water greater than 6 inches in depth directly back to the river. Once the water depth reached 6 inches it was pumped to the water treatment system. To assist the dewatering process, sumps and swales were installed in the cell.

The excavation grades were set for Cell 5A and excavation activities were initiated. Excavation and transport of the non-TSCA materials in Cell 5A was initiated. Some of the materials were directly transported to the Hill 78 OPCA, and the remainder was transported to the Building 65 and/or Building 68 stockpile management areas.

The Cell 8 downstream sheetpile cutoff wall was installed. Dewatering of Cell 8 was started by pumping the water greater than 6 inches in depth directly back to the river.

Other activities during the third week of February included the initiation of the installation of centerline sheetpile wall between Cells 9 and 10 and removal of sheetpile wall used to support a crane pad on the south side of the Silver Lake outfall. The surveyors conducted the pre-excavation survey of Cells 8 and 9.

During the fourth week of February, excavation and the post excavation verification survey for Cell 5A was completed. Upon approval of the verification survey backfilling activities were started. An 18-inch layer of 2-inch stone was placed as a foundation for the Silver Lake outfall extension box culverts. Cell 5A backfill grades and hubs were staked out for the box culvert structures. Riverbed backfilling was completed by installing the common fill, Filter Layer A and 9-inch rip rap. The pre-cast concrete Silver Lake outfall box culvert structures were installed and construction of the forms for cast-in-place concrete was begun.

Installation of the Cells 9 and 10 centerline sheetpile wall continued. A sheetpile cutoff wall was installed to divide Cell 8 into two parts (Cells 8 and 8A) to reduce infiltration and the resultant loading on the water treatment system. This wall also will allow simultaneous activities in Cells

5A and 8. Water above 6 inches from the riverbed in Cell 8 was pumped directly to the river. Once only 6 inches of water remained in Cell 8, water was pumped to the water treatment system for treatment. Sumps and swales for dewatering the cell were installed to prepare for excavation. Also, the water greater than 6 inches in depth from Cell 8A was pumped directly to the river.

Once the excavation grades were set and staked out by the surveyors, the non-TSCA material excavation activities were started in Cell 8. The excavated materials were transported directly to the Hill 78 landfill as well as the Building 65 and/or Building 68 stockpile management area.

Other activities included surveying the finish grades of topsoil above elevation 975 in Cells 7 and 7A and performing the topographic survey in Cell 10.

During the month of January, the water treatment system treated water from Cells 6A, 7, 7A, 5A and 8. Sampling of the water treatment system for parameters included in the NPDES exclusion permit was performed on February 24, 2003. Air monitoring for particulate matter (PM10 sampling) and surface water turbidity monitoring was performed on a daily basis. The monthly PCB air monitoring event was performed on February 7, 2003. Surface water sampling for total suspended solids (TSS) and PCBs was performed on February 5 and February 19, 2003. Sampling of common fill for chemical parameters was performed on February 4, 10, 11, 21, and 27, 2003; sampling for Filter Layer A for chemical parameters was performed on February 4, 2003; and topsoil sampling for chemical parameters was performed on February 10 and 11, 2003.

Geotechnical samples were collected for common fill, Filter Layer A, Filter Layer B, and topsoil. As well as visual inspections of 9-inch, 12-inch and 18-inch rip rap. The results of the geotechnical testing and the visual inspections are not included in the monthly reports but are contained in other submittals and are available upon request.

Stockpile management activities continued throughout the month of February. Daily inspections and operation and maintenance activities were performed within Buildings 63, 65 and 68. This included the installation of a mirror on the access road to the stockpile management areas to improve visibility and repositioning the Jersey barriers in Building 65. Decontamination of equipment was conducted prior to moving it in between TSCA to non-TSCA staging areas.

The transfer of non-TSCA materials from Building 65 and Building 68 stockpile management areas, and excavation Cells 5A and 8 to the Hill 78 OPCA was performed from February 11 to February 26, 2003. TSCA materials from the Building 63 stockpile management area were transported to the Building 71 OPCA on February 27 and February 28, 2003. Paint filter tests were collected at a frequency of 1 per 100 cubic yards (cy) of material loaded. (See Table 1 for a summary of material transported to the OPCAs)

Shipment of NAPL-impacted materials from the Building 65 stockpile management area to CWM Chemical Services, Model City, N.Y. for landfilling was performed from February 5 to February 19, 2003. This consisted of a total of 23 truckloads of material, weighing a total of 525 tons (See Table 5 for a summary of material transported to CWM Chemical Services, Model City, N.Y.).

Traffic control was conducted on Lyman Street throughout the month of February.

Tree clearing and fencing activities were on going and completed during the month on Parcel I8-24-1. Upon the completion of tree clearing and fencing, the location of the access road on Parcel I8-24-1 was laid out.

Miscellaneous site preparation and maintenance activities performed in February included continuous maintenance and repairs to the stockpile area trucking route and access roads. Dust control procedures continued for access roads, parking areas, and material storage areas. Staged backfill materials were covered to prevent generation of dust. Construction of a temporary building for equipment maintenance and service on the Lyman Street GE parking lot was completed.

### **3. Sampling/test results received**

PCB sample results for the water treatment system sampling program were received for samples collected on February 24, 2003 (Table 6). Non-PCB analytical results were received for the sample collected on January 20, 2003 (Table 6a). Non-PCB analytical results for the WTS samples collected on February 24, 2003 are not available yet. Analytical results for backfill materials are summarized in Table 7. This includes the sampling results for common fill samples collected on January 20, 21 and February 4, 10, 11, and 21, 2003; Filter Layer A sample collected on February 4, 2003; and topsoil samples collected on February 10 and 11, 2003. Results for common fill samples collected on February 21 and 27 are not yet available. The results of the daily particulate air monitoring program are summarized in Table 8. Table 9 is a summary of daily turbidity monitoring results. Results for PCB and TSS samples and water column monitoring data collected on February 5 and 19, 2003 are presented in Table 10. A summary of PCB samples collected for the air sampling conducted on January 23, and February 7, 2003 are provided in Table 11.

### **4. Diagrams associated with the tasks performed**

Figure 1 is a map of the Phase I area, and includes layout of all excavation cells, lot parcel identification numbers, water monitoring locations, PCB air sampling locations, access road locations, fence line location, the water treatment system pad location, crane pad locations, truck wash pad location, the effluent discharge location, and the utility trench location.

### **5. Reports received and prepared**

No reports were received nor prepared during the month of February.

### **6. Photo documentation of activities performed**

See attached photos.

## **7. Brief description of work to be performed in March 2003**

- Complete the installation of the box culvert for the Silver Lake outfall extension structure.
- Complete backfill activities in Cell 5A.
- Complete the excavation and backfill activities in Cells 8 and 8A.
- Complete the installation of the Cells 9 and 10 centerline sheetpile wall.
- Install downstream cutoff wall for Cell 9.
- Complete the Cell 9 excavation and backfill activities.
- Initiate the removal of the centerline sheetpile wall located between Cells 5A and 6A as well as the centerline wall between Cells 8/8A and 7/7A.
- Continue transferring TSCA materials from Building 63 to the Building 71 OPCA.
- Continue transferring non-TSCA materials from Buildings 65 and 68 to the Hill 78 OPCA.
- Continue stockpile management activities at Buildings 63, 65 and 68.
- Continue operation of water treatment system.
- Continue daily air and turbidity monitoring.
- Continue PCB air sampling (once a month), water column sampling (twice a month), water treatment system sampling (monthly) and backfill material sampling (as needed).

## **8. Attachments to this report**

Table 1. Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Generated During the Month of February

Table 2. Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Excavated to Date

Table 3. Quantity of Material Transferred to OPCAs During the Month of February

Table 4. Quantity of Material Transferred to OPCAs to Date

Table 5. Quantity of Material Transferred to CWM Chemical Services, Model City, N.Y. During the Month of February

Table 6. NPDES PCB Sampling Results for Water Treatment System

Table 6a. NPDES non-PCB Sampling Results for Water Treatment System

Table 7. Backfill Material Testing Results

Table 8. Daily Air Monitoring Results

Table 9. Daily Water Column Turbidity Monitoring Results

Table 10. Summary of Turbidity, PCB, and TSS Water Column Monitoring Results

Table 11. PCB Air Sampling Results

Figure 1- Phase I Site Plan

Photodocumentation